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9-5-02
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Magalie ROY-AUBERGER et al. : Examiner: Unassigned

Serial No.: Unassigned : Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith :

For: PROCESS FOR SYNTHESISING HYDROCARBONS IN THE PRESENCE OF A
CATALYST COMPRISING A GROUP VIII METAL SUPPORTED ON SILICA-
ALUMINAPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTAssistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, Applicants wish to amend the above-identified application as indicated below:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Q1 7. (Amended) A process according to claim 3, in which homogenisation is carried out by ultramilling in a colloidal mill.

8. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the silica-alumina is calcined at a temperature in the range 700°C to 1200°C for at least 10 hours.

9. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the silica-alumina is initially calcined at a temperature in the rang of 350°C to 550°C for at least 1 hour, then at a temperature in the range of about 500°C to about 1200°C for at least 6 hours.

10. (Amended) A process according to claim 1, in which the silica-alumina is homogeneous on the micrometre scale.